GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1492
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Protection from Wild Animals
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lives and property of people living in the villages in forest areas are being harmed by wild animals;
(b) whether the number of people killed by wild animals and vice-versa is consistently rising in the forest areas and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is taking/ proposes to take any concrete steps for the safety of the people living in forest areas and for the protection and preservation of the wild animals; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) Yes, sir. Reports indicating damage to property and human life by wild animals in the villages in forest areas has been received in the Ministry.

(b) Data available in the Ministry does not indicate that the number of people killed by wild animals and vice-versa is rising in the forest areas. Data received in the Ministry from National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Project Elephant Division indicating State wise details of people killed by tiger and elephants are furnished in Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

(c) &(d)The important steps taken by the Central/State Governments for the safety of the people living in forest areas and for the protection and preservation of the wild animals includes:
i. A network of Protect Areas namely viz., national park, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserve covering important wildlife habitat have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats and also for mitigation of human- animal conflicts.

ii. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wildlife, and improvement of its habitats and also for mitigation of human-animal conflicts.
iii. The Ministry, with financial assistance from Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), has formulated a scheme to provide assistance to the States for 'Augmentation of Fodder and Water in Protected Areas/Forest Areas', aimed at improving habitat in the areas by making provision for augmenting grass, fodder and water to the wild herbivores so that the wild animal will remain within forest itself.
iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for taking up activities in National Parks and Sanctuaries to protect the wildlife habitats.
v. Payment of ex-gratia amount to victims of wild animal attack is provided with a view to reduce retaliatory killings.
vi. Periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize guide and advise the general public on man-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media.
vii. Financial assistance is provided under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) and Project Tiger for voluntary relocation of villages from within Protected Areas to outside. This helps in moving people away from wildlife rich habitats and thus reducing conflict situations.

***